

In re Patent Application of:
DEQUINA ET AL
Serial No. 10/725,764
Filed: 12/2/03

REMARKS

Original Claims 1-11 have been replaced by new Claims 12-19. Claims 12-19 contain independent Claim 12 upon which Claims 13-16 depend and independent Claim 17, upon which Claims 18-19 depend. In each of the independent claims, monitoring of the LGATE of the lower FET, the UGATE of the upper FET and the phase node is set forth.

Moreover, these claims specify that subsequent to the turn off of the LFET and in response to the voltage of the phase node having reached a prescribed negative polarity voltage following a predetermined blanking delay, the UFET is turned on so as to cause the phase node voltage to go high. This is diagrammatically illustrated, for example, in Figures 4B and 4C, which shows the LGATE voltage going low at time 411. This triggers a blanking delay shown at 420-D, which is followed by the detection of a prescribed negative voltage (e.g., -0.4v) subsequent to the blanking delay. Thereafter, the phase node voltage goes high at 422.

Applicants' review of the prior art documents cited in the Invention Disclosure Statement does not reveal this operational scenario as delineated in Claims 12-19. Of the two patents, the patent to Wilcox 5408150 shows a top gate feedback node 33, a top source feedback 34 and a bottom gate feedback node 35. The gate drives and the gate voltages are monitored for controlling operation of an output FETS. The provision of a blanking delay, (which accommodates ringing that may be triggered by the low transition of the LGATE voltage), followed by the detection of a prescribed negative voltage as shown in Figure 4C and set forth in applicants'

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claims is not believed to be taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

Favorable examination of this application is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine any minor informalities that need to be addressed, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at 321-725-4760.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-0484 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing correspondence has been forwarded via facsimile number 703-872-9306 to the COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, this 8 day of October 2004.

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